Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

forming an entry well bore from the surface;

forming two or more slanted well bores from the entry well bore to the subterranean zone;

forming a substantially horizontal drainage pattern from at least one of the slanted well bores into the subterranean zone; and

forming a rat hole associated with ~~each~~ at least one of the slant well ~~bore~~ bores and extending below the substantially horizontal drainage pattern, the rat hole formed such that water and other fluids from the subterranean zone drain through the substantially horizontal drainage pattern and collect in the rat hole to facilitate removal of the fluids from the subterranean zone.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the two or more slanted well bores are radially spaced approximately equally around the vertical well bore.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein three slanted well bores are formed.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the three slanted well bores are radially spaced around the vertical well bore approximately 120 degrees apart.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the horizontal drainage ~~patterns comprise~~ pattern comprises one or more lateral well bores.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the lateral well bores are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing resources from the subterranean zone through the horizontal drainage patterns to the surface.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in each of the slanted well bores proximate to the subterranean zone.

9-17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended) A system for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

an entry well bore extending from the surface;

two or more slanted well bores extending from the entry well bore to the subterranean zone;

a substantially horizontal drainage pattern extending from at least one of the slanted well bores into the subterranean zone; and

a rat hole associated with ~~each~~ at least one of the slant well ~~bore~~ bores and extending below the substantially horizontal drainage pattern, the rat hole formed such that water and other fluids from the subterranean zone drain through the substantially horizontal drainage pattern and collect in the rat hole to facilitate removal of the fluids from the subterranean zone.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the two or more slanted well bores are radially spaced approximately equally around the vertical well bore.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 18, further comprising three slanted well bores.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the three slanted well bores are radially spaced around the vertical well bore approximately 120 degrees apart.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein the horizontal drainage ~~patterns comprise~~ pattern comprises one or more lateral well bores.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 22, wherein the lateral well bores are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 18, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in each of the slanted well bores proximate to the subterranean zone.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

forming two or more slanted well bores extending to the subterranean zone, the two or more slanted well bores formed from a common ~~drilling pad~~ surface area;

forming in the subterranean zone one or more substantially horizontal drainage patterns each intersecting at least one of the slanted well bores; and

forming a rat hole associated with each slant well bore and extending below the substantially horizontal drainage pattern, the rat hole formed such that water and other fluids from the subterranean zone drain through the substantially horizontal drainage pattern and collect in the rat hole to facilitate removal of the fluids from the subterranean zone.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, further comprising:

collecting the fluid in the rat hole associated with each of the two or more slanted well bores; and

pumping the fluid to the surface using a submersible pump positioned in the rat hole.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

forming an entry well bore from the surface;

forming two or more slanted well bores from the entry well bore to the subterranean zone;

forming in the subterranean zone one or more substantially horizontal drainage patterns each intersecting at least one of the slanted well bores; and

forming a rat hole associated with each slant well bore and extending below the substantially horizontal drainage pattern, the rat hole formed such that water and other fluids from the subterranean zone drain through the substantially horizontal drainage pattern and collect in the rat hole to facilitate removal of the fluids from the subterranean zone.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:

collecting the fluid in the rat hole associated with each of the two or more slanted well bores; and

pumping the fluid to the surface using a submersible pump positioned in the rat hole.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising positioning a submersible pump in the rat hole, the submersible pump operable to remove the water and other fluids collected in the rat hole from the subterranean zone.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 18, further comprising a submersible pump positioned in the rat hole, the submersible pump operable to remove the water and other fluids collected in the rat hole from the subterranean zone.